



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MAY 23 2007

Regulatory Branch

Honorable Greg Nickels
Mayor of Seattle
Post Office Box 94749
Seattle, Washington 98124-4749

Dear Mayor Nickels:

In your letter dated May 9, 2007, you requested approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to use the Seattle Biological Evaluation and Specific Project Information Form for conducting consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) on City of Seattle projects that require a Department of the Army permit. You further proposed 2007 as a pilot year for evaluating the effectiveness of the documents in conducting timely and consistent ESA and MSA consultations. Your long-term goal is for the Corps to request programmatic ESA and MSA consultation on the activities addressed in the Seattle Biological Evaluation.

I approve your request to use the Seattle Biological Evaluation and Specific Project Information Form during the 2007 pilot phase. I also encourage you to expeditiously submit the documents for programmatic consultation at the close of the pilot phase. Programmatic ESA and MSA consultation would preclude the need for conducting these consultations on a project-by-project basis, which I believe would significantly reduce the time required for the Corps to authorize City of Seattle projects.

I greatly appreciate the initiative that the City of Seattle has shown in developing the Seattle Biological Evaluation and Specific Project Information Form. We look forward to working with you during the 2007 pilot phase. Copies of this letter will be furnished to Mr. Steve Landino, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington State Director for Habitat Conservation, Washington State Habitat Office, 510 Desmond Drive Southeast, Suite 103, Lacey, Washington 98503-1263 and Mr. Ken Berg, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services, 510 Desmond Drive Southeast, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503-1263.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Maryann Baird at (206) 764-5531 or via email at maryann.baird@usace.army.mil, Ms. Ann Uhrich at (206) 764-6748 or via email at ann.r.uhrich@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KM', is positioned above the printed name.

Michael McCormick
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer